

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 INR-05 L-01 PM-03 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 EB-03 IGA-01 CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /044 W

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R 030740Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1545

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMIPAC HONOLULU

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 0066

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON DTD 3 JAN 75
REPEATED

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0006

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR-3

1. NVA FORCES ARE CONTINUING THEIR ASSAULTS IN THE THREE HOT SPOTS OF MR-3. PHUOC LONG'S PROVINCE CAPITAL, DESPITE THE ATTACK OF MASSIVE COMMUNIST FORCES, IS HOLDING ON. HOAI DUC DISTRICT CAPITAL IN BINH TUY PROVINCE IS SUSTAINING HEAVY SHELLING AND GROUND PROBES. THE RVNAF UNIT ATOP NUI BA BEN IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, STILL FACED WITH CRITICAL SHORTAGES OF FOOD AND AMMUNITION, NEVERTHELESS IS WITHSTANDING REPEATED PROBES AND SHELLING BY THE COMMUNIST FORCES AROUND THE MOUNTAIN.

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2. PHUOC LONG. THE ONE BN FROM THE 5TH ARVN DIV HAS INTEGRATED

WITH PHUOC LONG TERRITORIAL FORCES IN A SMALL, TIGHT PERIMETER AROUND SONG BE CITY. DESPITE REPEATED ASSAULTS AND SHELLING FROM A COMMUNIST FORCE ESTIMATED BY MR-3 HQS TO CONSIST OF AT LEAST SIX NVA BNS (FROM THE 141ST, 165TH, AND 171ST NVA REGTS), THE DEFENDERS HAVE NOT BUDGED. COMMUNIST GUNNERS ARMED WITH RECOILLESS RIFLE HAVE TAKEN POSITIONS IN THE HIGH GROUND ON NUI BA RA AND ARE FIRING DIRECT FIRE INTO THE CITY. ALL ARVN ARTILLERY HAS BEEN PUT OUT OF COMMISSION. ON JANUARY 2 IN THE COURSE OF THE BATTLE SIX COMMUNIST T-54 TANKS (ONE OF WHICH HAD MANGED TO BREAK INTO THE TOWN) WERE DESTROYED. THIS BRINGS THE TOTAL OF COMMUNIST TANKS DESTROYED IN THE THREE-DAY BATTLE AROUND THE PHUOC BINH/SONG BE AREA TO 11. MR-3 REPORTS THAT JGS HAS COMMITTED AT LEAST 60 VNAF SORTIES A DAY TO THE DEFENSE OF THE PHUOC LONG CAPITAL AND MR-3 INTENDS TO REINFORCE THE BELEAGUERED POSITION WITH ADDITIONAL GROUND TROOPS.

3. BINH TUY. COMMUNIST PRESSURE CONTINUES AGAINST THE HOAI DUC SUBSECTOR WHICH, ON JAN 2, RECEIVED MORE THAN 100 ROUNDS OF 107MM ROCKET AND 82MM MORTAR. DURING THE AFTERNOON OF JAN 2 AN ELEMENT OF THE 1ST BN, 43RD ARVN REGT WHICH HAD BEEN HELO-BORNE INTO THE DISTRICT, MANAGED TO RE-TAKE THE DAC DAO POST (YT 746344) WHICH HAD BEEN LOST ON JAN 2 TWO KMS NORTHEAST OF THE SUBSECTOR. LATER IN THE DAY THE SAME UNIT ENGAGED AN NVA FORCE ONE KM NORTH-EAST OF THE HOAI DUC CAPITAL (YT 752340) AND WAS SHELLED WITH OVER 300 ROUNDS OF 107MM ROCKET, 82MM AND 61MM MORTAR. ARVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS TWO KILLED AND TEN WOUNDED WHILE NVA LOSSES WERE SET AT FIVE KILLED. DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF JAN 3 COMMUNIST GUNNERS CONTINUED TO SHELL AND ROCKET ELEMENTS OF THE 43RD REGT AND THE HOAI DUC SUBSECTOR BUT THEIR POSITIONS APPEAR TO BE HOLDING FIRMLY. THE TWO REMAINING BNS OF THE 43RD ARVN REGT WHICH ARE LOCATED AROUND LOC LAM HAMLET (VIC YT 667397) NINE KMS NORTHWEST OF HOAI DUC ALSO WERE SHELLED BY 107MM ROCKET AND 82MM AND 61MM MORTARS BUT REPORTED NO CASUALTIES.

4. TAY NINH. DURING THE AFTERNOON OF JAN 2 COMMUNIST GUNNERS FIRED A TOTAL OF 86 ROUNDS OF ROCKET, ARTILLERY, AND MORTAR AGAINST THE RVNAF UNIT ATOP NUI BA DEN. DURING THE SAME PERIOD A VNAF HELICOPTER WAS HIT AND ONE CREWMAN WAS WOUNDED IN AN ATTEMPTED RESUPPLY MISSION ON THE MOUNTAIN. CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT COMMUNIST FORCES ATTEMPTED AN ASSAULT ON THE BUNKERS ON TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN BUT WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. CASUALTY RESULTS OF THIS ATTACK HAVE NOT

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YET BEEN RECEIVED. DURING THE AFTERNOON OF THE SAME DAY COMMUNIST FORCES FIRED FOUR 122MM ROCKETS INTO THE TAY NINH PROVINCE CAPITAL KILLING ONE PF AND WOUNDING FOUR CIVILIANS. ONE ROCKET IMPACTED IN THE FRONT YARD OF THE PROVINCE CHIEF'S HOUSE. ONE HOUSE AND A TEMPLE WERE DESTROYED IN THE ATTACK.

LAHIGUERA

UNQUOTE

MARTIN

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NNN

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